

**TARİX VƏ ETNOQRAFİYA
ИСТОРИЯ И ЭТНОГРАФИЯ
HISTORY AND ETHNOGRAPHY**

*MEHMAN ABDULLAYEV (Azerbaijan)**

**NUMBER OF THE AZERBAIJANI UPPER CLASS DURING THE KHANATES
(BASED ON THE DATA FROM QUBA, ERIVAN AND NAKHCHIVAN KHANATES)**

Abstract

Quba, Nakhchivan and Erivan khanates' upper class and its share in the total number of the Azerbaijan khanate population has been determined on the basis of statistical sources. At that time resettlement of Armenians from the Ottoman Empire and the Qajarid Iran to the Irevan and Nakhchivan regions caused a change in the demographic situation of this provinces. The article explores the ethnic composition of the region, paying special attention to the change in the number of upper class in the region of under the consideration. Investigation of both Muslim and Christian upper class and clergy and the determination of their share of the total number of people for the first attempt in historiography. The article also draws attention to the results of the Russian policy to shake the dominant position of Muslim clergy in the Irevan and Nakhchivan provinces.

Key words: *Azerbaijani khanates, Upper Class, Erivan khanate, Nakhchivan khanate, Armenian Oblast.*

Introduction

Studying the strength of the upper class, which stood on the high level of the khanate's society, is of great importance. Analyses, bases on the data of several khanates, give me opportunity to determine the number of upper class, including particular weight of higher Muslim clergy with respect to the total population. In this regard, gained statistic data, which is reflected in the compiled charts below, can be considered sufficient for the formation of general opinion on the examined issues (See Appendix below). At this point it is appropriate to consider these charts.

* Baku State University, Faculty of History, Assoc. Prof.. E-mail: dos.mehman.abdullayev@gmail.com

Analysis of the data on the Quba, Nakhchivan And Erivan Khanates

According to the analysis of the data reflected on the chart number 1, in 1810 when Quba khanate was eliminated, it consisted 5363 yards and 77 of them belonged to *Beys*, to the nobility of the khanate. This means that they represented 1.4% of the total population. If we add number of *Akhunds*, the upper Muslim clergy, (63 or 1.17%) to the previous one it makes 2.6% in total for the upper class of the khanate. Despite *Akhunds*, there were *Seyids*, *Mullah* and Christian clergy (only 2 family) in the khanate also, which determines the total number of the upper class as 250 yards and its particular weight as 4.7%. In Baku khanate there were recorded 6007 yards and 140 of them or 2.3% belonged to the *Bey* class. 275 of *Seyid* and 346 of *Mullah* (in total 612) lived in Baku and 34 suburban villages. So, upper class of khanate consisted 1.3% of its total population. There is no record on the Christian families in Baku (Berje, 1870: 653, Leviyatov, 1948: 41, Mustafazadə, 2005: 71-72, İbişov, 2012: 164-165).

Studies on the social structure of Nakhchivan and Erivan khanates' population require a certain specific approach. These two khanates were invaded by the Russian army in 1827 and subsequently they were included into "Armenian oblast", which is consisted of Nakhchivan and Erivan provinces and Ordubad county. According to the statistic documents there were 752 inhabited villages in Armenian *oblast*. 359 villages, populated by Azerbaijani Turks were massacred and devastated by the Russian forces. In total with these devastated villages (310 of them located in Erivan) 1111 villages were recorded in the oblast (Şopen, 1852: 510-518).

At the beginning of the 19th century, as well as in the late 1820s most of the 124 thousand Armenians, moved from the Qajar Iran and the Ottoman Empire, were settled in these provinces, which caused serious changing in the demographic status of the region. More deep changes were recorded in the content of the villagers of Nakhchivan and Erivan (Qarayev, 2010: 63-64).

The next chart was created in accordance with the records of I.Shopen, who deeply analyzed the region [Chart #3]. This table demonstrates that 16078 Turko-Muslim families lived in Erivan, Nakhchivan and Ordubad (of which 43294 men and 38455 women, in total 81749). First of all I.Shopen called the Armenian population of the region "pre settled population", meaning settled before the Turkmenchay treaty, but in some cases he used term "indigenous population" upon the Armenians. Due to "Cameral descriptions" (Kameralnie Opisaninya) of 1832, the number of the Armenian families reached 4428 (of which 13058 men and 12093 women, in total 25151). As we can see in the chart number 3 most of the population, 78.4% consisted of Azerbaijani Turks. However as a result of the resettlement policy of the Russian empire in the region during four years the demographic composition of the region sharply changed. Due to the chart after a short time the number of families reached 31 201 and subsequently 164450 people (of which 86786 men and 77 664 women) and it could be described as "demographic explosion". As result, the percentage of Azerbaijani Turks decreased to 51.53 and the number of Armenians increased 2,2 times, from 21.6% to 48.47%. Between 1828 and 1832 in

the territories of the former Erivan and Nakhchivan khanates 6949 Armenian families or 35560 Armenians (of which 18837 men and 16723 women) were re-settled from Qajar Iran, also 3682 Armenian families or 21666 Armenians (of which 11417 men and 10249 women) were re-settled from the Ottoman empire. So the total number of resettled Armenians from Iran and the Ottoman reaching 34% became a significant number (Şopen, 1852: 543-548, Qriqoriyev, 1833: 31, 82, 191-192).

In 1828, when the Erivan khanate was eliminated, of the 12694 families inhabited there 9196 or 49 875 were Azerbaijani Turks and the 3498 families or 20073 people were pre-settled Armenians (Şopen, 1852: 543-548, 640-642). Thus 72.5% of the population in Erivan consisted of Azerbaijani Turks, the indigenous inhabitants. The book "Erivan khanate", published by the co-authors, indicates in accordance to the I.Şopen's statistics, when the khanate was invaded 310 villages had 38750 residents (Mahmudov, 2010: 77). If we add this number to the number of the region's population, so the number of population in the Erivan khanate reached 107750. Thereby, in accordance with the new data, we can definitely indicate that on the eve of the invasion 82% of the total population of Erivan khanate were Azerbaijani Turks and 18% were Armenians. As for the Armenians, they were mentioned in the statistic documents as "pre settled population", namely non-indigenous population, which moved to the region long before the Turkmenchay treaty of 1828 and the Edirne treaty of 1829. Re-settlement of Armenians to the region had severe consequences for Azerbaijani Turks. According to the statistics of 1832, the number of Armenians increased from 12694 to 20927. Already registered in the same year 115115 of population 49875 or 43,3% were Azerbaijani Turks (Şopen, 1852: 543-548;638-642). Thus, being an indigenous population of the region Azerbaijani Turks lost their position of superior ethnicity and became an ethnic minority. Due to statistics of 1832 in Erivan province Armenian population, which I.Şopen determined as "indigenous" consisted 20073 people (17,43%). 23568 Armenians were transferred from Qajar Iran in Erivan, which makes 20.46% of population and from the Ottoman empire 21639 or 18.78%) and they settled in the territories, which never belong to them. It is obvious that registered in 1832 in Erivan of the 65.280 Armenians 45.207 or 70% were re-settlers from the Qajar Iran and the Ottoman Empire (Şopen, 1852: 543-548;638-642).

Russia's consecutive resettlement policy totally changed the ethnic composition of the Nakhchivan khanate, which was eliminated in 1828. Statistic data, compiled by the Russian author I.Şopen demonstrated that in 1832, including Ordubad, in Nakhchivan was populated by 41482 people (Şopen, 1852: 543-548;638-642). 12119 people of them or 29 % were re-settled Armenians. After 1828, 11992 people were moved from Qajar Iran and only 2 from the Ottoman Empire. Not by chance, Armenians, which consisted from different ethnic groups, are named as "descendants of the Turkmenchay" (Şükürov, 2006: 93).

Quick "Armenazition" of these ancient Turkic lands by Russia caused not only demographic changing in the western regions of Azerbaijan, but also had great influence on the socio-economic status and social strata of the society, and

the entire agrarian relations. The young researcher Elchin Qarayev in his valuable book dedicated to the history of the Irevan khanate indicates Muslim and Christian upper class of the khanate and their number. According to the Cameral Description immediately after invasion, author attempts to define the status of the upper class and upper clergy in the social structure of the society (Qarayev, 2010: 300-305). The author's research, of course, limited with the territory of the former Irevan khanate, because his research didn't cover the social structure of the Nakhchivan khanate. At the same time, the author didn't conduct comparative analysis of the issue of our interest in Erivan and Nakhchivan provinces.

It is important to consider the upper class of eliminated Erivan and Nakhchivan khanates to determine the number of this class on the base of Cameral Descriptions of 1832.

Due to the chart number 4, analysis of the data gives us the opportunity to assert that in 1828 in Erivan khanate, which was included into Armenian Oblast, 215 families (1573 people) belonged to the upper class. The number of these families makes 1.08 % of the population. The number of upper class Muslim families makes 2.34% of the Muslim population of the Erivan province. If we take into account the fact that the upper class consisted of men and women, we can determine the total number of upper class (Khan, Bey and Sultan) 1573 persons, and 1.36% of the total population and 3.15% of the Muslim population of Erivan (Şopen, 1852: 543-548;638-642). Due to data of 1832, the total number of the Muslim upper class of the Erivan province Akhunds, Seyids, Mullahs, Mirzahs and Dervishes was 331 families or 1.58%. If we take into account the number of men and women of Muslim upper class, it makes 1902 and 1.66% of the total number of province's population. Muslim clergy of the Erivan province consisted 3.60% of Muslim families and 3.83% of the Muslim (Turk) population.

According to the statistics of 1832, recorded number of the upper class of the Erivan province, including clergy, consisted 546 families or 3483 person. Taking into account the total number of all families in Armenian Oblast 20.927 or 115.155 people, the Muslim upper class per family makes 2.61% and per person 3,03%. Moreover, Muslim upper class' percentage in relation to Turko-Muslim families was higher 5.94% and per person it consisted 6.99% (Şopen, 1852: 543-642;690-692).

According to the Cameral Descriptions of 1832, the number of Khans, Beys and Sultans of the former Nakhchivan khanate, including Ordubad County, consisted 177 families or 1166 people. In accordance with the total number of families (10863 families) 1,63% of them belonged to the upper class and if taking into account the number of men and women (40482 people) 2.88% of them belonged to the upper class. Due to the chart #4, the percentage of the Muslim upper class was 3.19% in relation to the total number of the Muslim families and it makes 4,78% per person. At that time the number of Muslim families was 5538 (24385 people). Recorded in the chart number of Muslim clergy, consisted of Akhunds, Mullahs, Mirzahs and Seyids, was 279 families or 1368 people. Percentage of the Muslim

clergy in relation to the total families' number of the khanates was 2.57% and its percentage in relation to the number of population was 3.38%. Percentage of the Muslim clergy in the former khanate per families number was 5.04% and per person 5.61% (Şopen, 1852: 543-548;638-642, 690-692).

According to the Cameral Descriptions of 1832, in the former Nakhchivan khanate the number of Muslim upper class, including clergy, was 456 families or 2534 people. In accordance with the total number of khanate's families 4.19% of them belonged to the upper class and taking into account the number of men and women, in the count per person percentage of the upper class makes 6.26%. In total percentage of the upper class in relation to the Muslim families makes 8.23% and in the count per person it makes 10.39%.

The number of Armenian higher strata and religious figures

Whether a given a people or ethnos indigenous to this territory is defined by the presence of its upper class. Society is organized by the upper class; if people do not have their upper class, it does not have statehood. In 1828, in the year when Erivan and Nakhchivan khanates were eliminated, only 5 Armenian families had the title Bey, which was given by the Qajar dynasty. Territories of Erivan and Nakhchivan khanates at the beginning of the 19th century, particularly after 1828 re-settlement of Armenians their number sharply and repeatedly increased and simultaneously this caused increased of the number of upper class. Thoroughly analyzed Cameral census of 1832 enables to determine the number of Armenian upper class and Christian clergy in Erivan and Nakhchivan provinces.

In this regard, let's consider the chart number 5, compiled by me. Analysis of the chart demonstrates that only 22 Armenian Melik and Agha families lived in Erivan. It is clear that the number of Armenian families was 20927 in Armenian Oblast and percentage of the upper class was relatively small in relation to this number and it was only 0.1%. The 22 families of Melik and Agha consisted 205 people and the total number of the population in Oblast was 115151 and in relation this number of population only 0.17% belonged to the Armenian upper class. The Armenian upper class, majority of which were alien, had no significant percentage in relation to the total number of the population of province. So that the number of pre-settled and re-settled Armenian families was 11736 or 65280 per person. The Armenian upper class families consisted 0.18% of the total Armenian families and 0.35% per person (Şopen, 1852: 690-691).

In the Erivan region the number clergy was more than the number of Melik and Agha and the reason of that was the location of the Etchmiadzin (*Üçkilse* in Azeri) Cathedral in the Erivan province since 1441. Armenian clergy consisted 193 families or 1454 people. Percentage of Armenian clergy in relation to the number of families was 0.92% and 1.26% in relation to the total number of the population of Erivan province. These numbers were respectively 1.64% and 2.22% in relation to the Armenian population of the province.

With regard to Nakhchivan, only 15 families (109 people) of Melik and Agha were recorded before the mass re-settlement of Armenians in province. Per-

centage of Armenian upper class was 0.17% in relation to the total number of families and in relation to the total number per person it was 0.36%. In this regard it should take into consideration that 8538 families or 30507 people lived in Nakhchivan at that time. Of 8538 Armenian families 2145 were new settlers. In other words, the total number of population of Nakhchivan province was 30507 and 1/3 of it, about 10679, was recently re-settled by the Russian empire. Percentage of the upper class in relation to the number of Armenian families was 0.56% and per person 0.81% in the composition of the Armenian population, majority of which were new settlers. Percentage of Armenian clergy in relation to the number of all families in the province was 0.54% and 0.95% in relation to the total number of the population of Nakhchivan province. Percentages of Armenian clergy in relation to the number of Armenian families and the Armenian population of Nakhchivan province were 1.72% and 0.95% respectively. In contrast to Erivan and Nakhchivan provinces, there is no record of Armenian Melik, Agha and Armenian clergy in the city Ordubad. According to the 1832 census, 2325 families or 10975 people lived in the Ordubad County. Only 11 Melik and Agha families (109 people) were recorded in county. Percentages of these Meliks and Aghas in relation to the number of all families and whole population were 0.47% and 1.09% respectively. Percentages of the Armenian upper class in relation to the Armenian population were 1.69% and 3.22% respectively. Only 22 Armenian clergy families (152 people) were recorded in the Ordubad County. Percentage of Armenian clergy in relation to the number of all families in the county was 0.95% and 1.38% in relation to the total number of its population (Şopen, 1852: 691-692).

According to the 1832 census, 214 Melik and Agha families (434 people) were recorded in Armenian Oblast, which consisted of Erivan and Nakhchivan provinces and the Ordubad County. Percentages of Armenian Meliks and Aghas in relations to the total number of families were 0.37% and to the whole population 0.26%. There were 261 Armenian clergy families, which consisted 1895 people in Oblast. Percentages of Armenian clergy in relations to the total number of families were 0.84% and to the whole population of Oblast 1.15%.

According to I.Shopen, who tried to determine the ethnic composition and number of the population of the Armenian population, 3171 people, who had the nobility title, lived in Oblast. Of every 10 thousand Muslim people 335 belonged to nobility, relatively Armenians were 52 (Şopen, 1852: 691).

Conclusion

Comparative analysis conducted by I.Shopen according to statistics openly show that despite massive re-settlement of Armenians in the region, the number of Muslim upper class was for 6 time more than the number of Armenian nobility. This fact proves that Azerbaijani Turks and their nobility were indigenous population of Erivan, Nakhchivan and Ordubad regions.

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Mehman Abdullayev (Azərbaycan)

Xanlıqlar dövründə Azərbaycanda ali zümrə nümayəndələrinin sayı (Quba, İrəvan və Naxçıvan xanlıqlarına aid məlumatlar əsasında)

Xülasə

Tədqiqat zamanı əldə edilmiş statistik sənədlər əsasında Azərbaycanın Quba, Naxçıvan və İrəvan xanlıqlarında ali zümrə nümayəndələrinin say tərkibi və onların xanlıqların ümumi əhalisinə nisbətinin müəyyən edilməsinə diqqət yetirilmişdir. XIX əsrin ilk onilliklərində Çar Rusiyasının Cənubi Qafqazda yeritdiyi müstəmləkəçilik siyasətinin tərkib hissəsi olan köçürmə siyasəti nəticəsində Osmanlı imperiyası və Qacar İranından İrəvan və Naxçıvan bölgələrinə ermənilərin kütləvi şəkildə köçürülməsi Azərbaycanın İrəvan və Naxçıvan bölgələrində əhalinin sayını süni olaraq artıraraq demoqrafik vəziyyəti kəskin şəkildə dəyişdirmişdir. Əvvəllər İrəvan və Naxçıvan bölgələrində azlıq təşkil edən xristian erməni əhalisinin sayında bu köçürmələrdən sonra kəskin artım müşahidə olunmuşdur. Məqalədə tədqiq edilən bölgədəki ali zümrənin say tərkibindəki dəyişikliklərə xüsusi diqqət yetirilərək bölgə əhalisinin etnik tərkibi dərinədən araşdırılmışdır. Həm müsəlman, həm də xristian ali zümrəsinin və ruhanilərinin sayının araşdırılması və bölgə əhalisinin ümumi sayında onların payının müəyyənəndirilməsi tarixşünaslıqda ilk cəhd sayıla bilər. Məqalədə həmçinin Rusiya imperiyasının İrəvan və Naxçıvan bölgələrində müsəlman ruhanilərin mövqeyini zəiflətmək siyasətinin nəticələrinə də xüsusi diqqət ayrılmışdır.

Açar sözlər: *Azərbaycan xanlıqları, ali zümrə, İrəvan xanlığı, Naxçıvan xanlığı, Ermənistan vilayəti.*

Мехман Абдуллаев (Азербайджан)

Численность представителей высшего сословия в Азербайджане в период ханств (на основе сведений по Губинскому, Эриванскому и Нахчыванскому ханствам)

Резюме

Предметом исследования является выявление на основе статистических документов численности представителей высшего сословия Губинского, Эриванского и Нахчыванского ханств Азербайджана и их доли в общем населении. Проводившееся в первые десятилетия XIX в. в качестве составной части колониальной политики Российской империи на Южном Кавказе массовое переселение армян из Османской империи и Каджарского Ирана в регионы Эривани и Нахчывана привело к искусственному увеличению численности населения здесь и стало причиной резкого изменения демографического положения. В условиях меньшинства ранее переселившихся в регионы Эривани и Нахчывана христиан-армян данное переселение привело к резкому увеличению их численности. В статье обстоятельно исследуется этнический состав населения исследуемого региона и особенно изменения в численном составе высшего сословия. Впервые в историографии изучена численность как мусульманского, так и христианского высшего сословия и духовенства, выявлена их доля в общей численности населения региона. В статье также особое внимание уделяется последствиям проводившейся Российской империей политики ослабления позиций мусульманского духовенства в регионах Эривани и Нахчывана.

Ключевые слова: *азербайджанские ханства, высшее сословие, Эриванское ханство, Нахчыванское ханство, Армянская область.*
